

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in reply to Fifth Office Action. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and further examination of the patent application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111.

Claims 38, 40-43, 59, and 61-64 have been cancelled without prejudice and claims 39, 48, 49, and 60 have been amended as shown above. Upon entry of the foregoing Amendment claims 2, 6-17, 20, 24-35, 39, and 48-52, and 60 are pending in the application. The amendments are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested. Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all outstanding rejections.

Summary of Fifth Office Action

Claims 38, 40-43, 59, and 61-64 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hocter et al. U.S. Patent 6,810,087.

Claims 2, 6-17, 20, 24-35, 53-58 were allowed.

Claims 39, 48-52, and 60 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but Examiner indicated they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Remarks regarding §103(a) rejection

The applicant respectfully traverses all claim rejections but has cancelled claims 38, 40-43, 59, and 61-64 without prejudice to render the Examiner's rejections moot in order to expedite allowance of the present application. The applicant specifically reserves the right to seek additional claims in a future filed continuation application.

Remarks regarding allowable subject matter

Applicant thanks Examiner for allowing claims 2, 6-17, 20, 24-35 and 53-58.

Objected to claims 39, 48-52, and 60 were amended to include all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

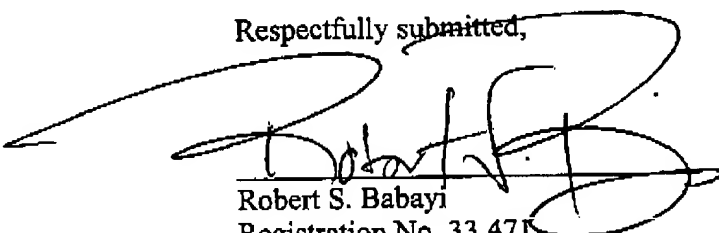
From the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the stated grounds of rejection and objections have been properly traversed, accommodated or rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests such action.

If the Examiner believes, for any reasons, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Applicant believes there are no additional fees associated with this reply other than those indicated. However, if this is incorrect, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees which may be required for this paper to Deposit Account No. 22-0261.

Respectfully submitted,

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